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NOV 4 1988

For Immediate Release

October 27, 1988

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DIOCESAN PRESS SERVICE/ Episcopal Church Center 212/867-8400

PB Fund Helps Victims of Hurricane Joan

DPS 88227

NEW YORK (DPS, Oct. 27) -- On October 22, Hurricane Joan brought death and destruction to the Caribbean coast of Nicaragua and to adjacent areas in Costa Rica, leaving some 300,000 people homeless. The Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief made an immediate response to the disaster with financial and material aid.

On October 25, in a letter to all the bishops of the Church, Bishop Furman C. Stough, who has recently taken up his work as Deputy for the Presiding Bishop's Fund, said: "Destruction from Hurricane Joan is great in Nicaragua, and the Presiding Bishop's Fund is there." Stough reported on the initial assessment of the destruction in Nicaragua received from the country's bishop, the Rt. Rev. Sturdie Downs, who flew into the disaster area on October 24. Downs found extensive damage in the Caribbean port city of Bluefields, and in the offshore Corn Islands. It appears that the church on Great Corn Island was destroyed and possibly the church in Bluefields as well.

Stough reported a number of specific relief efforts by the Fund already underway. A container of eight tons of food, clothing, and medicine gathered by the Fund working with the Diocese of Milwaukee, which has a companion relationship with Nicaragua, was flown to Managua on October 25. A second container will follow shortly, by sea. The Diocese of Chicago, which is moving toward a companion relationship with Nicaragua, is also becoming involved in the relief efforts for the area.

The Fund has also provided seed money for relief projects in both Nicaragua and Costa Rica. Five thousand dollars has been sent to Costa Rica to help fund the start-up of a project to relocate of some 20,000 people displaced by the storm, and \$10,000 has been made available to the Diocese of Nicaragua.

Bishop Stough also indicated in his letter to the bishops that the Fund would be grateful to receive contributions for Nicaragua.

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Foreseeing great long-term needs in light of the severity of the storm and its widespread destruction, Stough asked the bishops to turn to the parishes and congregations of their dioceses for aid to enable the Fund to continue the work it started -- literally before the winds of the hurricane had died down.

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Anti-Apartheid Leaders Leave Consulate

DPS 88228

NEW YORK (DPS, Oct. 27) -- On October 19, Mohammed Valli Moosa, Murphy Morobe, and Vusi Khanyile, the three South African anti-apartheid leaders who had been sheltered in the United States consulate in Johannesburg for 37 days, left the consulate on the advice of jailed anti-apartheid leader Nelson Mandela. The three men had originally escaped from government custody while undergoing medical treatment at a Johannesburg hospital. During the time the men were sheltered in the consulate, Presiding Bishop Edmond L. Browning had voiced his support of their witness in a letter to Vusi Khanyile, who is an Anglican. [See DPS 88214.]

Although the three South Africans had originally said they would not leave the consulate until some 1,300 other political detainees being held by the government under the country's strict emergency laws were released, they explained their departure to the press by saying that they believed they had succeeded in bringing the plight of the other government detainees to the world's attention. They also stated that a communication from Nelson Mandela had been a factor in their decision to leave the consulate. It is believed that the message from Mandela was carried by his wife, Winnie Mandela, who had visited the men on October 17.

Although the men had not been granted official "asylum" in the consulate, it was still obvious during their stay that the South African government was trying to avoid a confrontation with the United States government on the whole issue. South African officials had promised in advance that the three anti-apartheid leaders would not be detained again if they chose to leave the consulate. At this point, the South African government appears to be keeping its word.

This latest development served to highlight the degree to which the South African government is aware, and somewhat reactive to, the heightened feeling around the world about apartheid and the

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measures being used to maintain it. In October, the debate surrounding the case of the young anti-apartheid leaders has also added to the general atmosphere of tension centered on the call, by Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu and others, for a boycott by concerned voters of upcoming elections in South Africa; these elections, anti-apartheid leaders say, would only perpetuate unacceptable institutions -- including apartheid. [See DPS 88220.]

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DIOCESAN PRESS SERVICE/ Episcopal Church Center 212/867-8400

Langford Heads Jubilee Ministry

DPS 88229

NEW YORK (DPS, Oct. 20) -- On September 23, Presiding Bishop Edmond L. Browning announced the appointment of Ntsiki Kabane Langford as staff officer for the Church's active Jubilee Ministry. Langford, who has a background in community organizing around social justice issues, and in developing advocacy programs, first came to the Church Center last spring as grants administrator for the United Thank Offering.

Langford's appointment to the Jubilee post signals the good news that the popular program, established at the mandate of the 67th General Convention (1982), is entering its third triennium with great vigor and a determination, on the part of its active network of enablers and supporters, to realize the hopes its founders had for it and to take the next steps in its development. As staff officer, Langford will work in partnership with the Jubilee Ministry Committee, Jubilee Associates, Diocesan Jubilee Officers, and Jubilee Interns.

Two words that were applied to the approach envisioned for Jubilee Ministry programs from their inception were "flexible" and "evolving." Langford looks forward to continuing the work the program started in 1982. However, she sees the need to focus on the changing dimensions and character of the problems the Jubilee Ministry concept addresses. She is committed to the idea of the integration of evangelism, social service, and advocacy in Jubilee endeavors; she sees advocacy, especially, as an important emphasis for Jubilee's future -- a way of solving some of the root problems that trap people in social and economic despair.

Langford, who holds a M.A. degree from the School of International Training in Brattleboro, Vermont, is well prepared to meet the problems of Jubilee's future. In the past, she has developed advocacy programs focusing on apartheid, drug abuse, public education, and diverse cross-cultural issues.

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And as an active Episcopal layperson, Langford affirms the parish and congregational ties of Jubilee Ministry as a source of strength and nurture.

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[FEATURE] Jamaica Picks Up the Pieces

DPS 88230

NEW YORK (DPS, Oct. 27) -- In Jamaica, the word on everybody's lips is Gilbert. The first hurricane to hit here since 1951, Gilbert wreaked havoc upon this small island in the West Indies, causing damage that will still be felt in the new year.

Churches, schools, hospitals, hotels, homes, businesses, and farms all suffered the wrath of winds moving at velocities of up to 180 miles per hour. An estimated 80 percent of the island's housing was damaged; 20 percent of it destroyed. Approximately 500,000 people were left at least temporarily homeless. Forty-five people were killed.

Most of the local farms, which provide the sole means of living for a large number of Jamaicans, were destroyed. Entire crops were wiped out, causing more than \$400 million in damage and forcing the country to import fruit for the first time in 45 years. The poultry industry, worth more than \$60 million, was devastated.

Clean drinking water was nonexistent for weeks after the storm. Floods swept dirt and drowned livestock into the water supplies, while purification systems were inoperable or ineffective.

Electricity and communications were wiped out. For days, amateur ham radio operators were the country's only link with the outside world. Power lines were not merely knocked down; utility poles themselves were toppled or snapped in half.

Kingston, the nation's capital and major industrial center, was without power a week after Gilbert struck. Authorities hesitated to turn the electricity back on for fear of people being electrocuted by power lines strewn across the city's streets.

Jamaica's principal tourist area, Montego Bay, was without power for ten days before electricity was partially restored. Smaller communities were still in the dark weeks after Gilbert had passed.

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No one has been able to assess the actual value of the damage, but it has been estimated to be at least \$8 billion. Before Gilbert, Jamaica already had a debt of more than \$4 billion, or about \$19,000 per person in a country where the annual per capita income is about \$1,450.

Some of the burden is being eased by international relief, which is pouring into Jamaica from a number of countries -- primarily Canada, the United States, and Great Britain -- as well as the International Red Cross, the United Way, the Salvation Army, and various churches. The churches in Jamaica, however, have not been as active helping others as they might have liked, largely because of the need to deal with their own troubles. Across the country, more than a dozen churches have to be completely rebuilt, and nearly 200 more have to be repaired. (According to the Guinness Book of World Records, Jamaica has more churches per square mile than any other country in the world).

The Anglican Church was hit particularly hard, with an estimated 109 churches damaged -- as well as 25 Anglican schools, 34 rectories, and 21 church halls hard-hit. "The churches and schools suffered extensive damage," Bishop Neville de Souza of Jamaica said, "...but our primary concern is for the indigenous society here."

An estimated 150,000 people sought shelter in more than 450 distress centers across the country. Many churches helped displaced persons by offering buildings for temporary shelter during and after the storm. In Kingston, 120 centers were established, the largest being the city's sports arena, which still housed people two weeks after Gilbert.

"The people have an urgent need for many things: food, clothes. But the big item is now material for rebuilding homes," Bishop de Souza said. However, these materials are hard to come by. The most common form of roofing here is zinc, but it has to be imported, as does most of the suitable lumber.



Alternative sources of roofing also disappear quickly. Plastic sheeting shipped in from the United States vanished in days; a prominent sign at Jamaican Red Cross headquarters explains that it has no materials for roofing. The Jamaican government has arranged to bring in some \$9.5 million in lumber supplies and 7,000 tons of zinc roofing sheets, which will meet about 40 per cent of total need. The government has not specified how these materials will be distributed.

The problem is that the need is widespread, from the poor shantytown residents to the home owners in Beverly Hills, a plush neighborhood outside Kingston.

Public buildings need materials for repairs as well, especially hospitals and schools. Kingston Public Hospital was forced to close six of its wards following Gilbert, while Cornwall Regional Hospital in Montego Bay faces repairs to at least four floors that were severely damaged. Fifty children's homes were also reported to be in need of repair.

The Anglican Church has been gathering in resources in order to repair its Nuttal Hospital. A good portion of the hospital's roof was lost, leaving the maternity ward running at only half capacity.

With the scarcity of resources, the Church is exercising caution in its use of funds. It does not want to rush into projects only to wind up doubling aid in one area at the expense of somewhere else, Bishop de Souza explained.

Finding out what assistance is being provided, and where, is extremely difficult. Communication on the island is chaotic, and assistance organizations, including the government's Office of Disaster Preparedness, have little time to monitor activities other than their own. "Getting information is part of the problem," Bishop de Souza said.

The one clear thing is that Jamaica does not have the resources or facilities to implement an assistance program the size of the one it needs.

Weeks after the crisis, the airport in Kingston remains

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jammed with supplies, many of them stored in warehouses because there is no one to move them and nowhere else to store them. Military personnel are employed everywhere, not only to move supplies, but also to provide protection against looters. While relief supplies remain stored in Kingston, hundreds of people in poorer, outlying areas wait for aid to arrive.

The amount of aid needed is great. For example, Morant Bay, a town on the east coast of the island, was one of the first places Gilbert struck. A Red Cross worker, having just returned from there, explained that it is a small town, but its needs are large.

"If we [the Red Cross] took everything we have and put it into Morant Bay alone, it still wouldn't be nearly enough," the worker said.

**Editor's note:** This story is one of two on-site reports prepared by Bill Glisky for the November issue of the Canadian Churchman.

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THE PRESIDING BISHOP'S ARTICLE  
THE EPISCOPALIAN  
NOVEMBER 1988

DPS 88231

I picked up the telephone so quickly and so naturally and the resulting grief was so deep that it took me some time to collect my thoughts and reflect on the reality. Wes Frensdorff was dead.

It was months after the airplane crash that killed Wes, the retired bishop of Nevada and bishop-in-charge of Navajoland, and his pilot. I was working at my desk one Saturday afternoon. I had just finished reading a long, detailed position paper that had been prepared by my staff. After reading the paper, I picked up the telephone to call Wes. This was such a natural thing to do.

Wes and I had been friends for years. He was that sort of person you could call and talk through an issue or a problem with, and he always seemed to have the right thing to offer. Sometimes advice, sometimes caution, sometimes just humor. As I look back he rarely had the pat answer -- just the good sense to support me when I had a tough decision to make. Before I had finished dialing the number I remembered Wes was dead. The pain and sorrow that I had felt at the news of his death, the deep anguish I felt when I met with his wife Dee and their children, all this rushed back into my consciousness as I sat alone at my desk months after the actual events.

Wes Frensdorff was a pilgrim. He was one of God's special people who lived on the fringe of everyday life. He was the person who had to move onto the beachhead of new ideas, new forms of community, new structures of reality. He lived for the challenge to imagination and creativity.

Wes was a crusader without guile, a critic without cynicism. His humor made him the scourge of the pompous and the delight of the faithful. This perceptive, restless, happy pilgrim became my guardian angel.

Now, that may sound like a strange relationship -- a guardian angel! Mentor, consultant, advisor might sound more appropriate for the Presiding Bishop. But, believe me, God did not send Wes to be a mentor! He was a guardian angel.

I have had many messengers enter into my life. There were the friends, the teachers, the peers who brought me into contact with

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ideas, with principles, with experiences, with judgment. I don't think that I am unusual in having such a string of helpers along life's journey. With some of these messengers, I have had a close relationship; others have been biblical or historical or known only from a distance. They all touched and helped guide my life. Through circumstances or just in quiet moments I often recall these bearers of Christ in my life. Wes Frensdorff was special.

As I sat at my desk trying to deal with my grief, I said aloud, startling myself, "Wes Frensdorff was special." I picked up the position paper and wondered what Wes would have said about it. Then I laughed because, as I began to jot down my thoughts, I knew Wes was still my guardian angel.

The Episcopal Church is a community of memory, a community that ties us to the past. The Episcopal Church is also a community of hope, a community that ties us to the future.

We remember those pilgrims of faith who have gone before us. We celebrate their lives and appropriate their spiritual gifts, their experience of God, their perspective of the truth into our lives and into the life of our community. Some of those we remember were colorful characters; some were even considered bizarre by their contemporaries. A quick scan of our liturgical calendar gives a rather fulsome picture of humanity! We remember all these characters, these pilgrims of faith, on All Saints' Day, November 1. And, of course, we remember the Wes Frensdorffs, too.

As a community of hope, we are tied to the future. Our guardian angels, those from the past and those of the present, push us into the future. These messengers point us beyond the enclaves of our contemporary lives. They often make us uncomfortable. Their presence prevents us from being a gathering of the similar. In forcing us to expand our horizons, they are our heralds of hope -- they are the gatekeepers of our future.

Some events before us the next several weeks will give us a chance to be a community of memory and hope: All Saints' Day (Nov. 1), the Commemoration of All Faithful Departed (Nov. 2), Leo the Great, Bishop of Rome (Nov. 10), AIDS Awareness Sunday (Nov. 13), Hilda, Abbess of Whitby (Nov. 19), Thanksgiving Day (Nov. 24). As we remember, as we retell our stories, we are tied to the past. As we probe and connect with our present, we are tied to the future. Memory and hope.

Wes Frensdorff was my guardian angel because he lived in the tension between innovation and conservation. He continues to be my guardian angel, within the greater communion of saints, because he supported me when I found myself in that painful tension. He continues to be my guardian angel because his witness often puts me into that hope-filled tension.



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[FEATURE] New Bishops Elected in China

DPS 88232

NEW YORK (DPS, Oct. 27) -- On Sunday, June 26, 1988, history was made in Shanghai's Muen Protestant Church. On that day some 1,500 people witnessed the episcopal consecrations of Pastor Sun Yanlin and Pastor Shen Yifan. Bishop Sun, who is 74, and Bishop Shen, who is 60, are the first bishops ever elected by China's postdenominational (Three-Self Movement) church. They are the first Protestant bishops to be elected in China since 1955.

It is significant that the new bishops were consecrated in Shanghai, a city that many people see as a trend setter in the development of the new Chinese Protestant church. It is also important that the decision to have bishops at all was a local decision made by the Municipal Christian Council Standing Committee of Shanghai. The rapidly growing Protestant community in Shanghai, by electing their own bishop, are making it clear that they have no interest in restoring past denominational ties or in following church systems that once existed in China.

No one knows for sure whether other provinces and cities will follow Shanghai's lead and elect bishops. Be that as it may, these new bishops are described as "shepherds among shepherds"; they have no variation of the kind of episcopal administrative or appointive authority in the sense that Roman Catholics, Anglicans, or some mainstream Protestants in the West understand it. These bishops represent, in fact, a compromise between the various theological traditions represented in the postdenominational church.

In his sermon at the consecration, Bishop K.H. Ting, chairman of the National China Christian Council, noted that one responsibility of the new bishops would be to "preserve religious freedom and help normalize relations between religious believers and other segments of Chinese society." He also reminded the congregation of the ancient roots of the episcopal tradition in church history.

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The consecration service at Muen Protestant Church strongly reflected Anglican and Methodist traditions, but it also included worship patterns from other denominational backgrounds. The newly elected bishops wore traditional white albs, gifts from the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church and the United Methodist China Program, and crimson red stoles.

Seven male clergy took part in the actual act of consecration, the historic laying on of hands. Participation by four bishops consecrated in the Anglican tradition, bishops Mao Kezhong (who is almost 90), K.H. Ting, Wang Shenying, and Xue Ping, satisfied those concerned with keeping the apostolic succession. The other three consecrators were pastors representing Southern Baptist, Methodist, and Church of Christ traditions in China: Qi Qingcai, senior pastor of Shanghai's Grace Church; Wu Gaozhi, former general secretary of the old National China Christian Council; and Yin Jizheng, senior leader in the Beijing Christian Church.

Both newly consecrated bishops had comments on the moving occasion. Bishop Shen recalled the problems for Christians in China's recent history. He remembered that in the early 1960s Shanghai's Christian leaders were uncertain about possible new forms of church organization. Then, according to Bishop Shen, "All our plans were spoiled and no new structures possible. But we thank God that era [the era of the Cultural Revolution] has passed."

Bishop Sun also had thoughts about the significance of his consecration: "Today there is a new unity in China and a new ordering of church structures. I hope my consecration will help the future development of our Chinese church."

In fact, it is said to have taken more than two years of debate in the Shanghai Municipal Christian Council Standing Committee to decide what church system to adopt. Considerable care and patience were given to enable people of widely divergent theological backgrounds to reach a consensus.

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In a very real way, the Shanghai consecration of bishops Shen and Sun indicates a shift in focus and emphasis in the reborn Chinese Protestant church. For ten years great emphasis was placed on the Three-Self Principles of self-government, self-support, and self-propagation. The focus now seems to be moving toward the growth and development of the institutional dimension of the Body of Christ, with a special emphasis on nurturing and sustaining leadership.

Bishop Shen, for one, has his eyes set on the future: "We are not returning to the days of denominationalism. We are also not discarding the past...we want to enhance it...but we live in a new era. Our church has been restored and is ever-growing. We need to evolve systems for the future...."

Note to editors: This article is based on an account of the Shanghai consecration prepared by Ewing W. Carroll, Jr, director of the United Methodist China Program, for the Summer 1988 issue of China Notes.

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Frew Appointed National AIDS Consultant

DPS 88233

NEW YORK (DPS, Oct. 27) -- The Rev. Earl A. Neil, Executive for National Mission in Church and Society at the Episcopal Church Center, has announced the appointment of the Rev. Randolph Lloyd Frew as national AIDS consultant, succeeding the Rev. Lynn Coggi. In his announcement, Neil expressed his thanks to Coggi for her two and a half years of work as AIDS consultant.

Frew will continue the work in helping to build a substantial network of AIDS ministry and advocacy throughout the Church. He has served urban parishes -- St. Matthew's, Las Vegas, Nevada, and as rector of the Church of the Holy Apostles in New York City -- over the last 12 years. While rector of Holy Apostles, Frew in 1982 founded the Holy Apostles Soup Kitchen [see DPS 88076; DPS 88209], now the largest private on-site feeding program in New York State (the Soup Kitchen served its millionth meal in late September). Frew has also worked with the HOPE Program, an employability training program for homeless men and women, and has been active for many years in civil and human rights concerns.

In his role as AIDS consultant, Frew can be reached at the Episcopal Church Center by calling 212-867-8400 or 800-334-7626, ext. 487.

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DIOCESAN PRESS SERVICE/ Episcopal Church Center 212/867-8400

BRIEFS

Church Musician Honored

DPS 88234

NEW YORK (DPS, Oct. 27) -- Dr. Russell Schulz-Widmar, music professor, organist, and choirmaster at the Seminary of the Southwest since 1974, received the Distinguished Alumnus Award this month from Valparaiso University in Indiana. The citation called Schulz-Widmar "one of the most influential church musicians in the United States today." He received his bachelor of music degree from Valparaiso in 1966.

After his graduation from Valparaiso, Schulz-Widmar received the master of sacred music degree from Union Theological Seminary and the doctor of musical arts degree from the University of Texas.

Schulz-Widmar served the Episcopal Church as a member of its Standing Committee on Church Music, and chaired the hymn music committee that helped publish the Hymnal 1982. He is president of the Hymn Society of America.

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Synod Elects New Brazilian Bishop

NEW YORK (DPS, Oct. 27) -- On October 12, the 23rd Synod of the Episcopal Church of Brazil, meeting at Porto Allegre, elected the Rev. Almir dos Santos, rector of Jesus Christ parish in Erechim, Brazil, bishop of the missionary diocese of Brasilia. He will succeed the Rt. Rev. Agostino Sória who has announced his resignation for December.

Almir dos Santos won the election on the fourth ballot. The other candidates were the Rev. Patricia Ann Powers, a missionary from the United States working in Brasilia, the Rev. Jorge Macedo, rector of a church in Rio de Janeiro, and the Rev. Glauco Soares de Lima, rector of a church in São Paulo.

Speaking after the election, Almir dos Santos told supporters his plans for his new diocese. He cited three principles that would

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undergird his new administration: its close identity with the people of the diocese, the creation of new church communities in urban and rural areas, and its commitment to social issues in the diocese, including social justice issues.

Almir dos Santos, who holds degrees in theology and sociology, has had a broad ministry beyond his urban parish in Erechim. He is director of a secondary school and minister-in-charge of a large missionary area in the state of Santa Catarina.

The bishop-elect is married to Noeli Gomes dos Santos. They have four children.

The consecration of Bishop-elect Almir dos Santos will take place in Brasilia in March 1989.

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#### Medical Airlift Helps Jamaica

NEW YORK (DPS, Oct. 27) -- On October 4, the David Livingstone Missionary Foundation, based in Tulsa, Oklahoma, announced that it had airlifted a \$500,000 medical supply shipment to help relief agencies working in hurricane-devastated areas in Jamaica.

When it struck in mid-September, Hurricane Gilbert damaged 20 of the island's 26 hospitals, some of them severely. The medical airlift was a step in the restoration of health services to the island. The shipment included bandages, surgical supplies, IV equipment, antibiotics, antidiarrheal drugs, and other medications for the treatment of bacterial infections, gastrointestinal disorders, typhoid, and other communicable diseases often carried in polluted water.

The David Livingstone Missionary Foundation works in the area of "people-to-people" relief, worldwide. It does not deal directly with governments. Its ministry of Christian humanitarian relief has included help for orphanages, hospitals, clinics, feeding programs, schools, churches, and disaster relief in many of the poorest nations in the world.

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California Bishops Condemn INS Action

NEW YORK (DPS, Oct. 27) -- On September 27, agents of the United States Border Patrol, an arm of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), entered La Purisma Roman Catholic Church, in Orange, California, during the 6:30 A.M. mass. The action was taken while Border Patrol agents were in pursuit of two suspected illegal aliens who took refuge in the church during a sweep of the area. La Purisma has a predominantly Spanish-speaking congregation. Ultimately, the two suspects and five other members of the congregation were taken from the church and arrested. A total of 160 suspected aliens were arrested in the sweep.

Two California bishops, Bishop Norman McFarland, a Roman Catholic, and Bishop Oliver Garver, Episcopal suffragan of Los Angeles, have denounced the U.S. Border Patrol action. McFarland, whose diocese includes Orange, said, "Nothing warrants them entering a church and disrupting a service. There was no question of public safety being involved." Garver is quoted as saying: "To act so precipitously, not to pause and let church officials and superiors in the INS discuss the issues is rather scandalous and frightening .... We're not pursuing armed felons.... We're pursuing people who in the best American tradition want to work."

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Audio Note

NEW YORK (DPS, Oct. 27) -- For many Episcopalians, one of the most memorable events of the 69th General Convention in Detroit was the dinner sponsored by the National Commission on Social and Specialized Ministries. The theme of the dinner was "Crisis in Compassion: The Call to Serve." Mayor Andrew Young of Atlanta and Bishop Bennett Sims, the prominent theologian and teacher, were the speakers.

DPS has received numerous inquiries from people who heard the Young and Sims addresses, and from those who heard about them, concerning the availability of audio tapes of the event. In response

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to these inquiries, a 90-minute cassette tape of the Young and Sims addresses (and of most of the question-and-answer session that followed) is available by writing: The Rev. Charles A. Taylor, Jr., Saint James' Episcopal Church, 766 N. Main Street, Hendersonville, N.C. 28739. The cost of the tape is \$5.95, postpaid. Make checks payable to "Crisis in Compassion."

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